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<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u>

Please amend or cancel claims as indicated in the Listing of Claims that will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

1.(currently amended):   An apparatus for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:

an encoder configured to digitally encode a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

a placement selector configured to select a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

an access selector configured to select a level of access for the encoded information;

a processor configured to process, responsive to said access selector, the encoded information; ~~and~~

a printer configured to print the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location; <u>and</u>

<u>a lens apparatus configured to produce a composite image of the document and image information decoded from the encoded information wherein the orientation of the image information is determined by disambiguation.</u>

2.(previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.

3-4(canceled)

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5.(currently amended): A method for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:

digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information; and

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location; and

displaying a composite image of the document and image information decoded from the encoded information wherein the orientation of the image information is determined by disambiguation.

6.(previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.

7.(canceled)

8.(previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

9.(currently amended): A method for ensuring that a document has not been altered, comprising:

digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

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selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information;

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location.

decoding the encoded information as decoded information;

displaying the decoded information as a composite image of the document and the decoded information wherein the orientation of the decoded information is determined by disambiguation;

comparing the decoded information with the user-inputted portion; and

identifying the document as altered, if the decoded information is not identical to the user-inputted portion.

10.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

11.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoded information is a graphical recreation of the user-inputted portion.

12.(previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoding step further comprises placing the document under a viewport of a lens apparatus, wherein the lens apparatus converts the encoded information to decoded information.

13.(currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein displaying the decoded information further comprises further comprising the step of superimposing the decoded information on the document.

14.(currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein displaying the decoded information further comprises further comprising the step of displaying the decoded information outside of the document.

15-16(canceled)

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17.(currently amended):   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for creating a tamper-proof document, the method comprising;

        digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

        selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

        selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

        processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information; and

        printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location; and

        <u>displaying a composite image of the document and image information decoded from the encoded information wherein the orientation of the image information is determined by disambiguation.</u>

18.(original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

19-29(canceled)

30.(previously presented):   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.